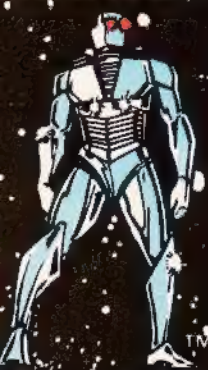


MARVEL



ROOM

65¢
U.K. 30p
CAN. 75¢

66
MAY



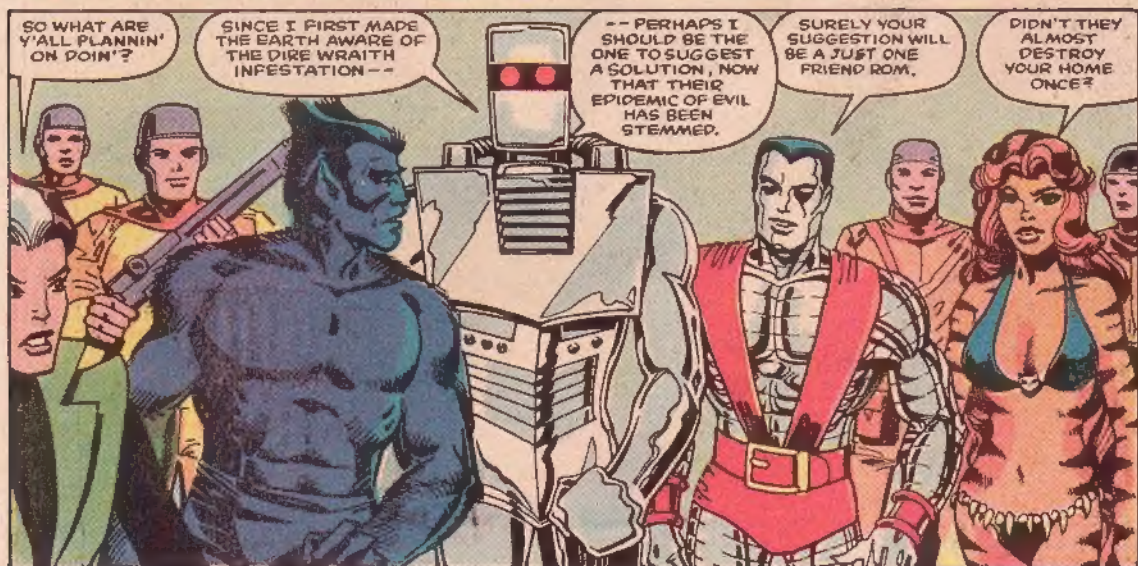
9C8

THIS IS THE FACE OF... VICTORY.



ROM™ Vol. 1, No. 66, May, 1985. (ISSN 0274-5380) Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Vice-President, Publishing, Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. **SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.** Published monthly. ROM™ is a trademark of PARKER BROTHERS, and likeness of the character to which that name is applied is the property of PARKER BROTHERS, and the trademark and likeness are used with permission of PARKER BROTHERS. ROM™ copyright © 1985 by PARKER BROTHERS. All rights reserved. All other material copyright © 1985 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price 65¢ per copy in the U.S. and 75¢ in Canada. Subscription rate \$7.80 for 12 issues. Canadian and foreign \$9.80. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or material moved, nor in a mutilated condition. **POSTMASTER: SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO ROM, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 10TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.**

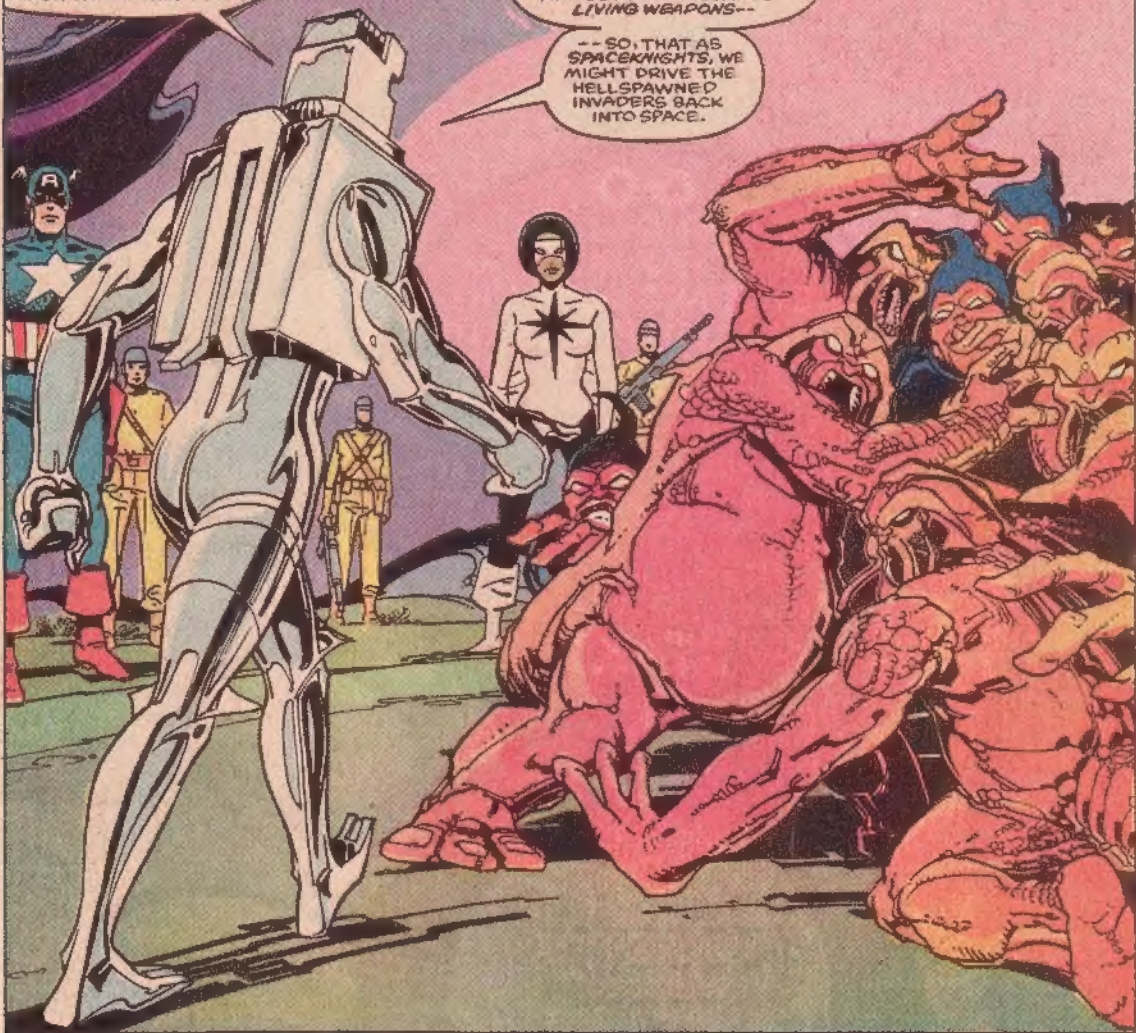




AYE. WHEN FIRST THE
PIRE WRAITHS STREAMED
FORTH FROM THEIR DREAD
DARK NEBULA GALADOR
WAS THE FIRST WORLD
UPON WHICH THEY FELL.

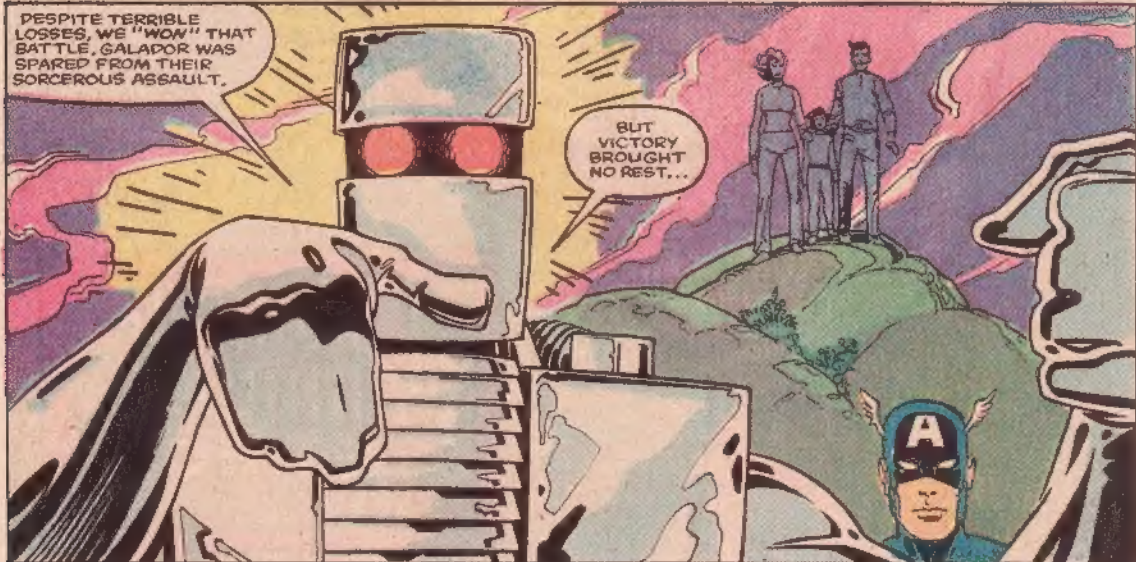
TO DEFEND GALADOR I AND
COUNTLESS OTHERS OF MY
GENERATION WERE FORCED TO
SACRIFICE OUR CHERISHED
HUMANITY, TO FOREGO PEACE
AND BE MADE OVER INTO
LIVING WEAPONS--

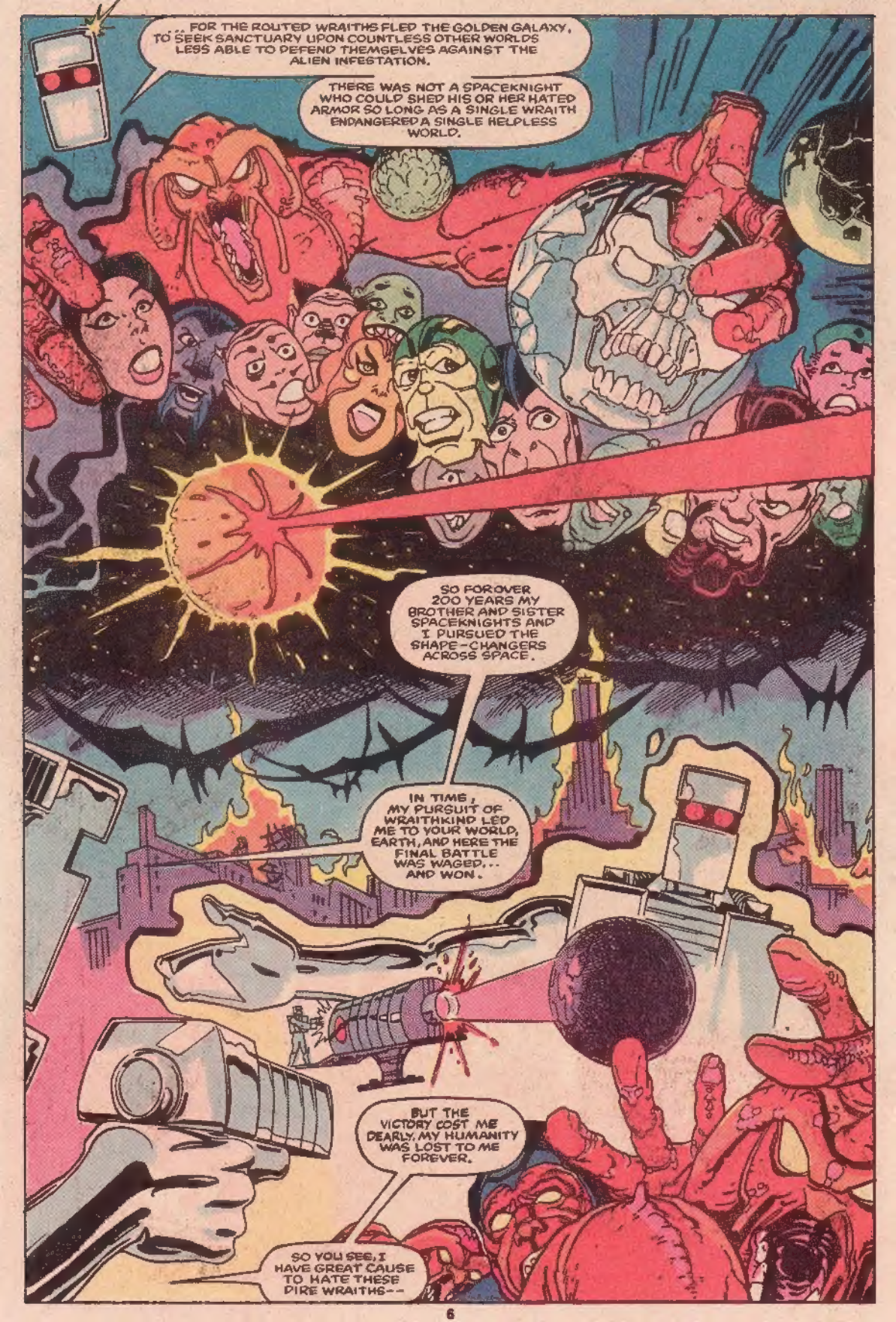
-- SO THAT AS
SPACEKNIGHTS, WE
MIGHT DRIVE THE
HELLSPAWNED
INVADERS BACK
INTO SPACE.



DESPITE TERRIBLE
LOSSES, WE "WON" THAT
BATTLE. GALADOR WAS
SPARED FROM THEIR
SORCEROUS ASSAULT.

BUT
VICTORY
BROUGHT
NO REST...





FOR THE ROUTED WRAITHS FLED THE GOLDEN GALAXY,
TO SEEK SANCTUARY UPON COUNTLESS OTHER WORLDS
LESS ABLE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST THE
ALIEN INFESTATION.

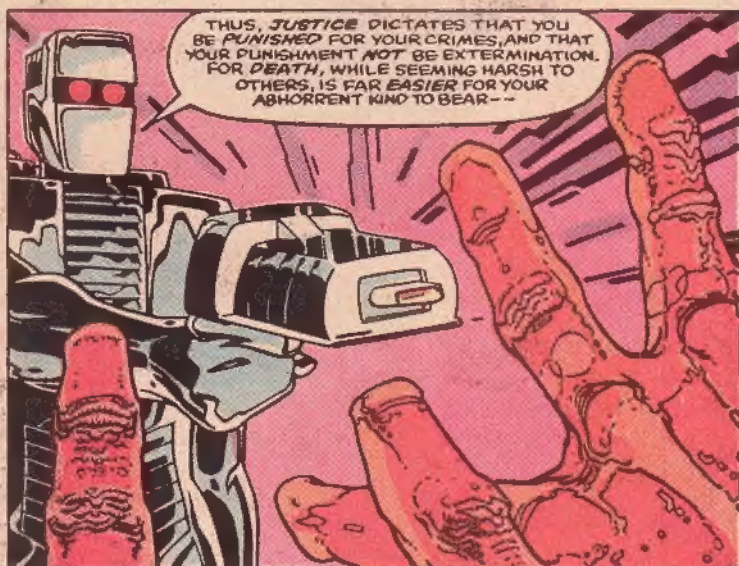
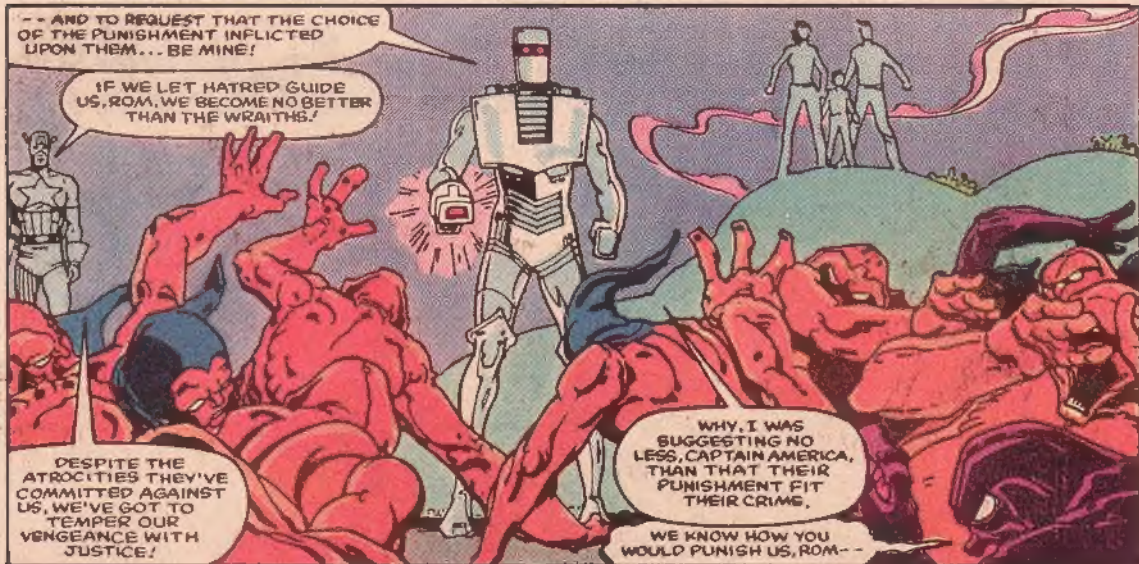
THERE WAS NOT A SPACEKNIGHT
WHO COULD SHED HIS OR HER HATED
ARMOR SO LONG AS A SINGLE WRAITH
ENDANGERED A SINGLE HELPLESS
WORLD.

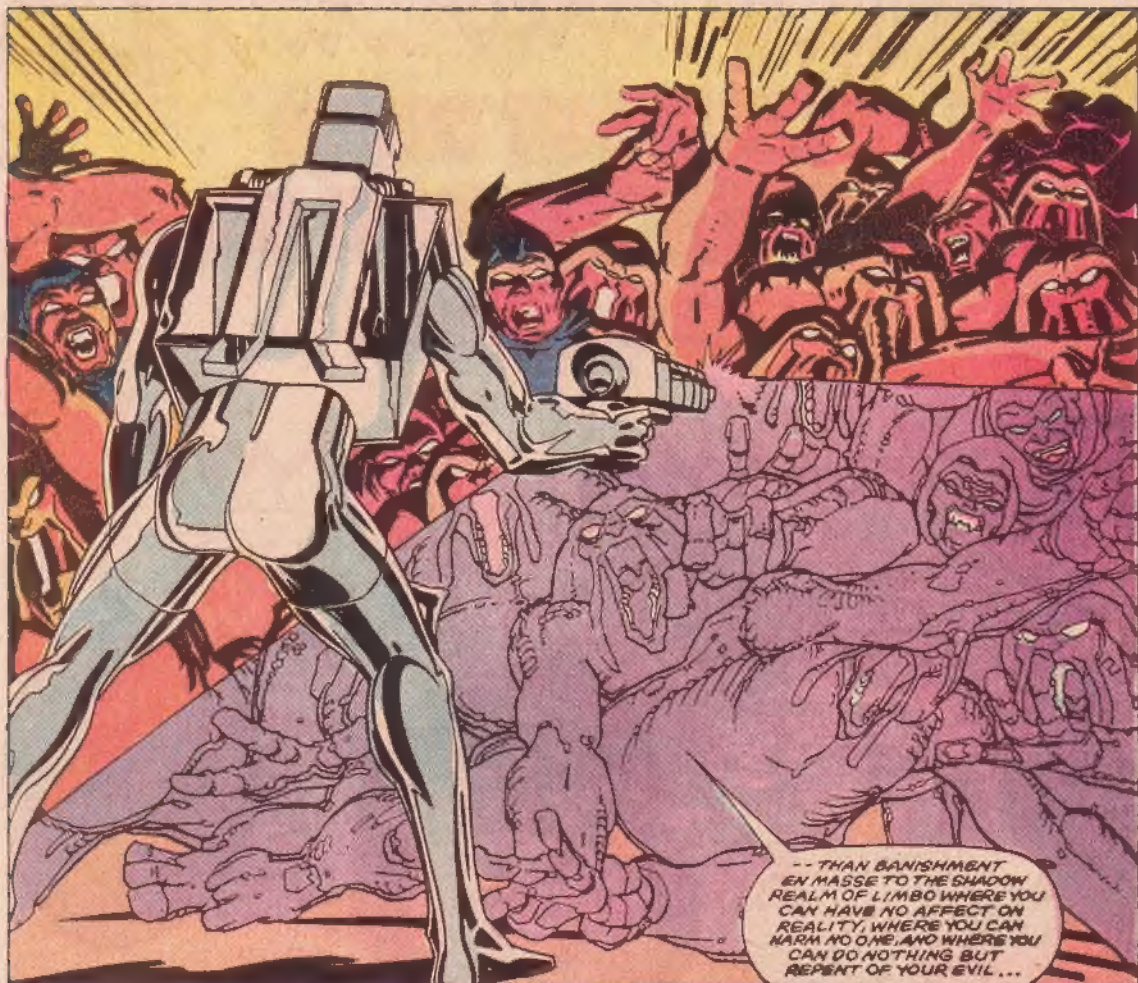
SO FOR OVER
200 YEARS MY
BROTHER AND SISTER
SPACEKNIGHTS AND
I PURSUED THE
SHAPE-CHANGERS
ACROSS SPACE.

IN TIME,
MY PURSUIT OF
WRAITHKIND LED
ME TO YOUR WORLD,
EARTH, AND HERE THE
FINAL BATTLE
WAS WAGED...
AND WON.

BUT THE
VICTORY COST ME
DEARLY. MY HUMANITY
WAS LOST TO ME
FOREVER.

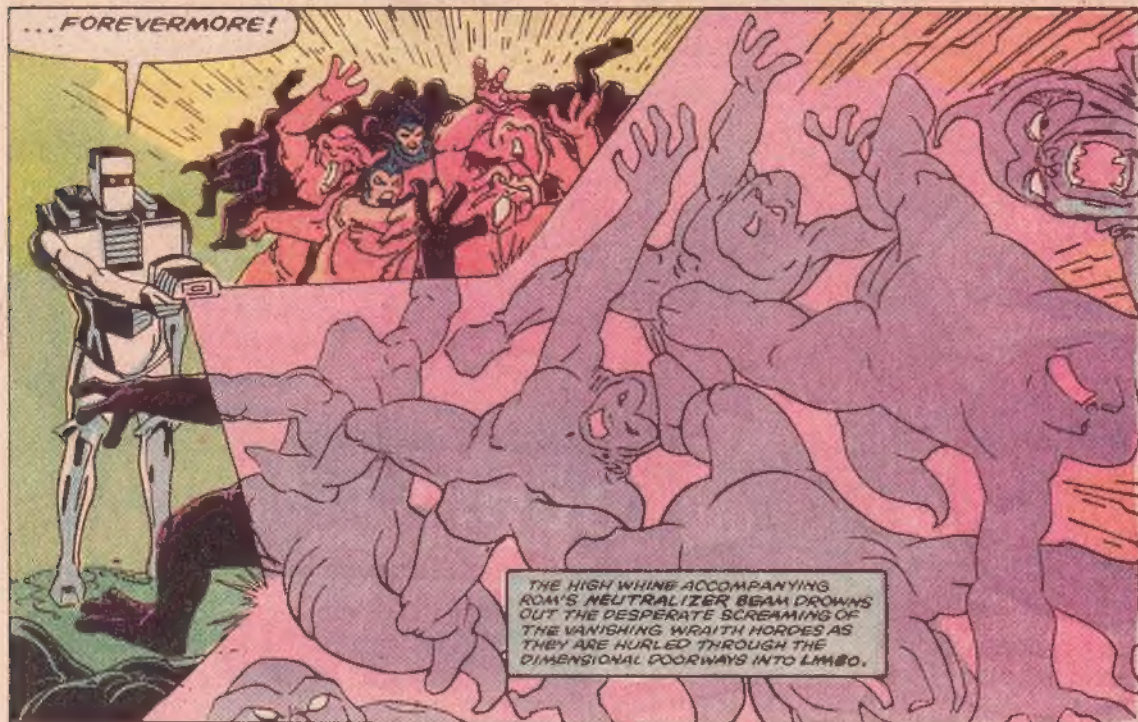
SO YOU SEE, I
HAVE GREAT CAUSE
TO HATE THESE
PIRE WRAITHS--





-- THAN BANISHMENT
EN MASSE TO THE SHADOW
REALM OF LIMBO WHERE YOU
CAN HAVE NO AFFECT ON
REALITY, WHERE YOU CAN
HARM NO ONE, AND WHERE YOU
CAN DO NOTHING BUT
REPENT OF YOUR EVIL...

... FOREVERMORE!



THE HIGH WHINE ACCOMPANYING
ROM'S NEUTRALIZER BEAM DROWNS
OUT THE DESPERATE SCREAMING OF
THE VANISHING WRAITH HORDES AS
THEY ARE HURLED THROUGH THE
DIMENSIONAL DOORWAYS INTO LIMBO.

SPACE NOTES

MICHAEL CARLIN: editor MICHAEL HIGGINS: assistant editor

© MARVEL COMICS GROUP 387 Park Avenue South New York, New York 10016

Attention correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Bill, Steve, and Mikes,

ROM #61 is truly one for trivia buffs. Not only did we see Ditko's Spider-Man after an exasperating eighteen year absence, but we probably saw the only depiction of Spidey wearing his black costume that we'll ever get from Sturdy Steve.

For page 21, panel 3, I'm eternally grateful.

Jeffrey Lowndes
809 Sunset St.
Scranton, PA 18509

We'll try to break it to you gently, Jeff... but, y'see, the Spidey figure in question was actually *not* the handwork of Sturdy Steve—Spidey's co-creator—at all. It was slipped in by Jackson "Butch" Gulce while he was inking the pages. We think it was a nice touch on Jackson's part, but we do want to keep the record straight.

Dear Marvel,

Never before have I seen such an upswing in quality like the one that has occurred in the pages of ROM! The man most responsible is, of course—Steve Ditko! His art seems to have improved by light-years since the early sixties (not that he was bad then, mind you). Just one thing, though... give the poor fella a regular inker. Bob Layton, Tom Palmer and Jackson Gulce are all O.K. (and better), but unless you're going to try *everybody*, please pick one.

Bill's scripting, also, is better than ever. Never before has ROM been this exciting. Rumors have reached me that the Wraith War will soon be over. If it's true, what will happen then? Will Rom turn into a crime fighter? No! He gave up his humanity to combat Dire Wraiths, not to put cheap hoods in prison. Is Rom going to leave our planet? If so, what will happen to our small, but dear, supporting cast, particularly Rick Jones?

Please, Please, PLEASE let him live. He's a real one-of-a-kind *Hero*—with a capital "H". He's been through so much, but he's still a great character and he's too young to die! Besides, you need some supporting characters in this book. Almost everybody died in issue #50.

I have never feared so much for the life of a comic character.

Arne Röstlund
Tactisvagen 6
S-16153 Bromma
Sweden

We're positively ecstatic over the enthusiastic reception to Steve's penciling prowess in the pages of ROM. As we expected, it has taken the world by storm. But what's wrong with having *everybody* ink these masterworks? There certainly has been no shortage of embellishers knocking at our door for a chance to work with a man whose name is legend within the comic field. We want to give 'em all a chance. How could we pass up the opportunity for Steve Lela-loha or P. Craig Russel to share the artistic limelight with the illustrative Mr. Ditko? We feel that the new heights of greatness that you applaud can be best

achieved by *not* limiting ourselves to any one inker's style.

It's a radical approach, for sure, but we've all been very happy with the results. How about you?

Dear Sirs,

I agree with Bob Pratt's letter in ROM #61. Brandy Clark is receiving too much criticism for her obsessive hatred of the Dire Wraiths. As Pratt points out, the Wraiths have earned that hatred. In fact, regarding the Wraiths, Henry Peter Gyrich's and Brandy Clark's attitudes are the most appropriate. There are times when mercy is possible, but not during a war with a merciless foe. The Dire Wraiths are attempting to destroy the Earth and they will succeed unless they are destroyed. In fact, as ROM ANNUAL #3 demonstrates, Rom's banishing them to Limbo is not sufficient. If Hybrid can escape then so can other Wraiths. Rom is merely postponing the inevitable. Let us remember that the Dire Wraiths started the war and that they're basically waging it on unsuspecting non-combatants. At least the Wraiths get a chance to fight back when Rom attacks them.

Brandy Clark is a warrior and the Wraith War calls for warriors. The Wraiths can't be reasoned with—their terms are nothing less than the eradication of humanity. The human race must either kill or be killed—there is no middle ground. The Earth needs Brandy Clark. Her hatred will only be unnecessary when the Wraith menace is extinguished.

Don Childers

Wynnewood Towers Apt. 609W
100 W. Cold Spring Lane
Baltimore, MD 21210

Well, Don, it looks like the Wraith Threat has finally been eliminated—and without the aid of Starshine, although Brandy fought valiantly in her normal, human form alongside Rick Jones, Cindy and the Wraith-hunter Rangers. What lies ahead for Brandy—indeed, what lies ahead for any of the members of our cast—now that Rom has left behind his adopted planet and begun the long journey back to Galador? The answers—and an entirely new direction for this series—begin next issue in a story called "LIFE ON MARS!" Give yourself a *Welp* prize pat on the back if you can guess the exotic locale for this far-out fantasy. It's by Bill Mantlo, Steve Ditko and P. Craig Russell and it's on sale in thirty days!

Dear Sirs,

I was very pleased with ROM ANNUAL #3. The first two annuals were great and #3 was even better. I've seen Bill Sienkiewicz' rendition of Rom several times before but his cover for the annual was incredible! The man's paintings never cease to amaze me.

Enough about the cover, let me comment on the contents. First of all the artwork was great and up to par with the first annual. I was happy to see the team of Akin and Garvey inking Rom again. In my opinion, they

are the best inkers any ROM fan could ask for. Secondly, the script was excellent. Previous monthly and annual ROM storylines have rarely been as good. Too often, material for Marvel annuals consists of senseless slug-fests, dumb team-ups that just don't click, stories that are out of whack with current events in the Marvel Universe, and minimum character development. But this year you have given us a fine example of what an annual can be. I enjoyed the return of Hybrid and the appearance of the New Mutants but I was even more happy to see what a young Wraith is like. The conversation between Sam and Joshua in the woods featured some fine writing. Both were additions I was pleasantly surprised to see in an annual. The New Mutants were handled intelligently and their reason for being in Cumberland seemed logical. Well worth a buck!

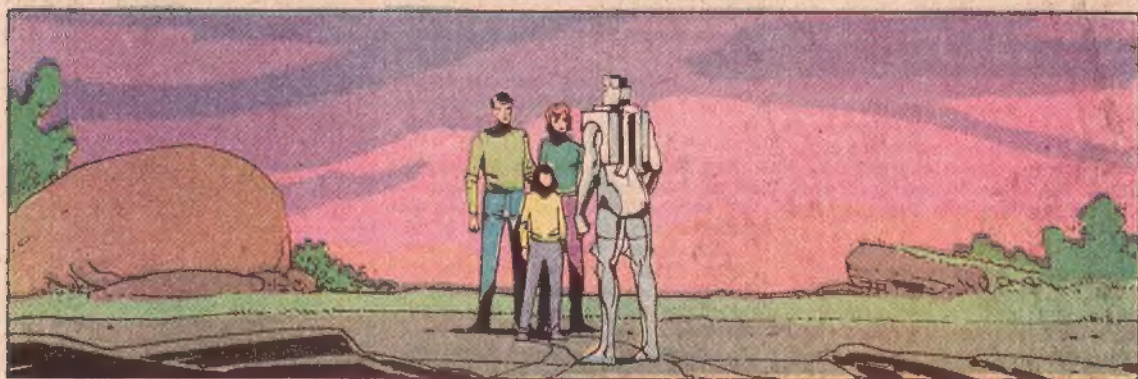
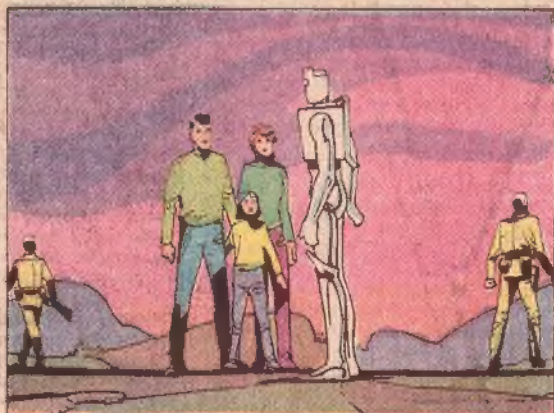
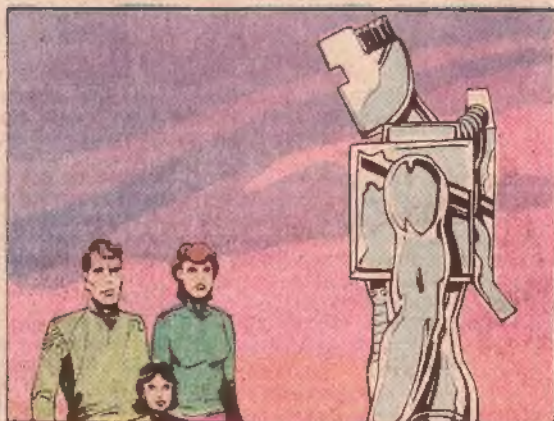
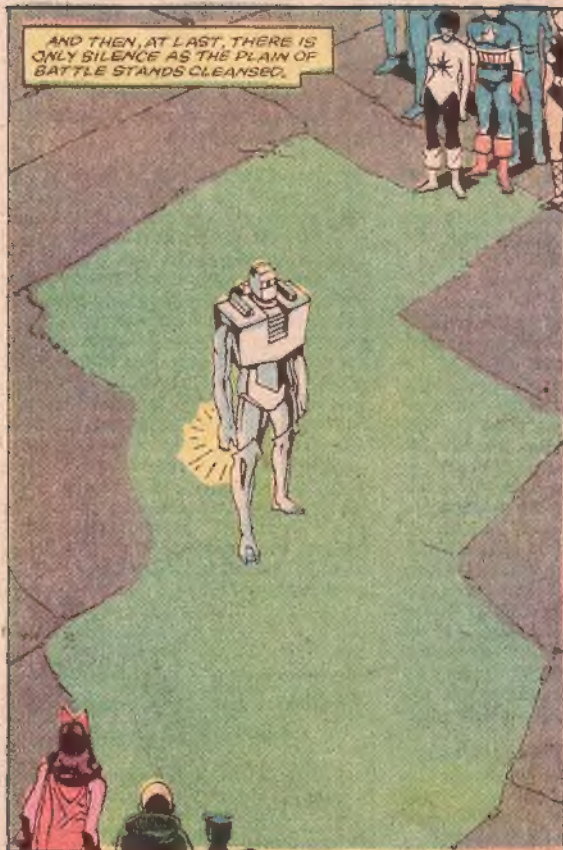
Gregory Moutafis
182-Primrose St.
Haverhill, MA 01830

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (REQUIRED BY 39 U.S.C. 3685)

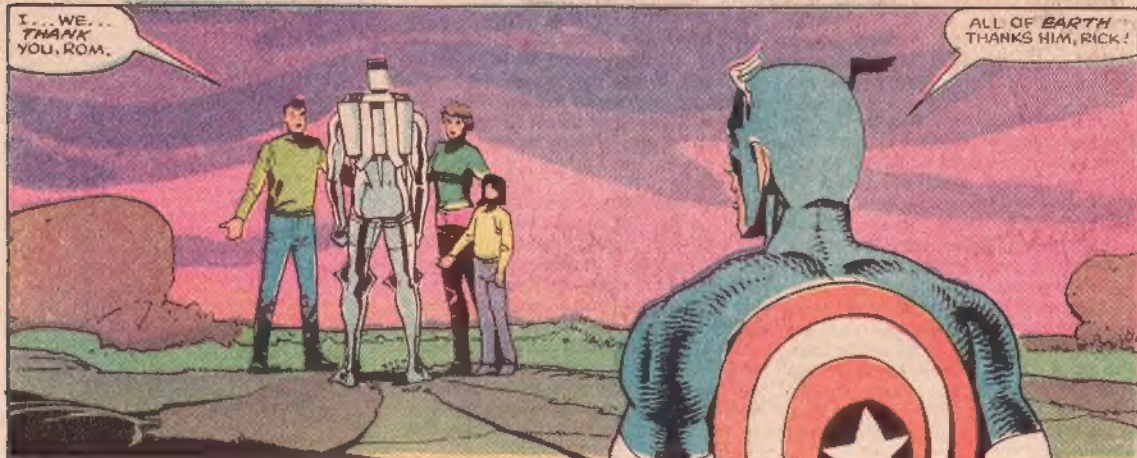
- Title of Publication: ROM
- Date of Filing: September 28, 1984. 0274-6390
- Frequency of Issue: MONTHLY
- No. of issues published annually: 12
- Annual subscription price: \$7.20
- Complete mailing address of known office of publication: 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016
- Complete address of the headquarters of general business offices of the publisher: 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016
- Full names and complete mailing address of publisher, editor, and managing editor: Stan Lee, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016; Editor: Jim Shooter, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016; Managing Editor: Jim Shooter, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016
- Owner (if owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, its name and address must be stated.): Sheldon Feinberg, 21 Henderson Drive, West Caldwell, N.J. 07006; Joseph Calamari, 21 Henderson Drive, West Caldwell, N.J. 07006; Cadence Industries Corporation, 21 Henderson Drive, West Caldwell, N.J. 07006; Paul Hindin, 21 Henderson Drive, West Caldwell, N.J. 07006; James E. Gallatin, 21 Henderson Drive, West Caldwell, N.J. 07006; Jim Fox, 21 Henderson Drive, West Caldwell, N.J. 07006; Stuart Friedman, 21 Henderson Drive, West Caldwell, N.J. 07006
- Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities: None
- For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates (Section 4113, DMM only): The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes. (Check one) [] Have not changed during preceding 12 months. [] Have changed during preceding 12 months. (If changed, publisher must submit explanation with this statement.)
- EXTENT AND NATURE OF CIRCULATION
 - Total No. Copies Printed (net press run): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 380,916. Single issue nearest to filing date: 287,099.
 - B Paid Circulation: 1) Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 155,587. Single issue nearest to filing date: 142,735. 2) Mail subscriptions: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 8,503. Single issue nearest to filing date: 5,150.
 - C Total Paid Circulation: (Sum of B and C): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 162,230. Single issue nearest to filing date: 147,885.
 - D Free Distribution by mail, carrier, or other means, samples, complimentary, and other free copies: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 140. Single issue nearest to filing date: 140.
 - E Total Distribution: (Sum of C and D): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 162,230. Single issue nearest to filing date: 148,033.
 - F Copies Not Distributed: 1) Office use, left-overs, returns, spoiled after printing: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 2,652. Single issue nearest to filing date: 2,226. 2) Returns from News Agents: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 156,037. Single issue nearest to filing date: 136,840.
 - G Total (Sum of E, F, and C) should equal net press run shown in A): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 320,919. Single issue nearest to filing date: 267,099.
 - I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

(Signed) Ed Shulkin — Business Manager

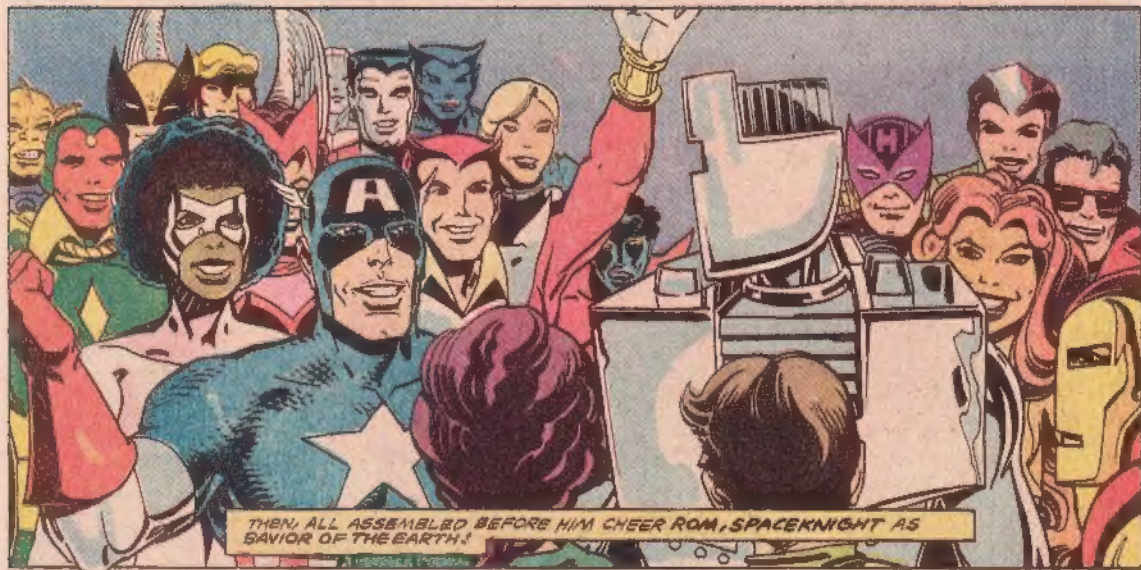
AND THEN, AT LAST, THERE IS
ONLY SILENCE AS THE PLAIN OF
BATTLE STANDS CLEANSED.



I... WE...
THANK
YOU, ROM.



ALL OF EARTH
THANKS HIM, RICK!



THEN, ALL ASSEMBLED BEFORE HIM CHEER ROM, SPACEKNIGHT AS SAVIOR OF THE EARTH!

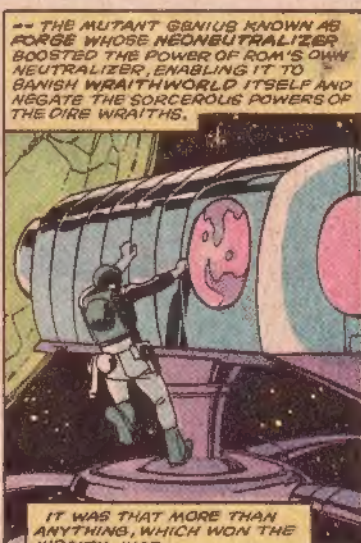


AND, THOUGH HE SPEARHEADED EARTH'S RESISTANCE TO DESTRUCTION BY THE DIRE WRAITHS, ROM KNOWS THAT HE COULD NOT HAVE PREVAILED WITHOUT THE HEROES WHO CHEER HIM. . .

...OR WITHOUT THE ORDINARY CITIZENS OF EARTH--WHO SUFFERED MOST FROM THE SCOURGE OF WRAITHKIND...



...OR, MOST ESPECIALLY, WITHOUT ONE VERY SPECIAL HUMAN BEING--



-- THE MUTANT GENIUS KNOWN AS FORGE WHOSE NEONUTRALIZER BOOSTED THE POWER OF ROM'S OWN NEUTRALIZER, ENABLING IT TO BANISH WRAITHKIND ITSELF AND NEGATE THE SORCEROUS POWERS OF THE DIRE WRAITHS.

IT WAS THAT MORE THAN ANYTHING, WHICH WON THE WRAITH-WAR.



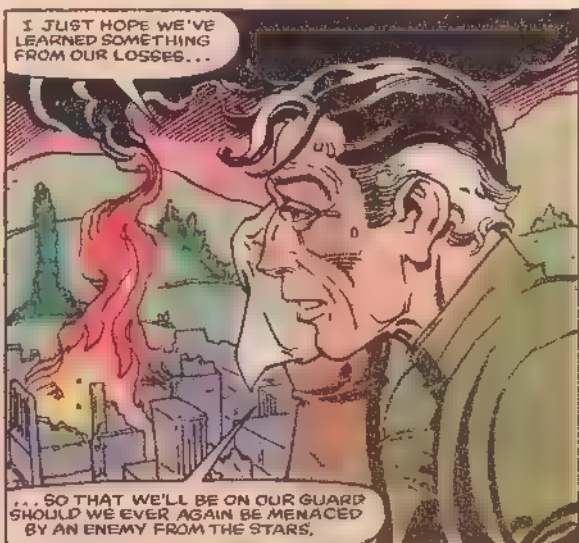
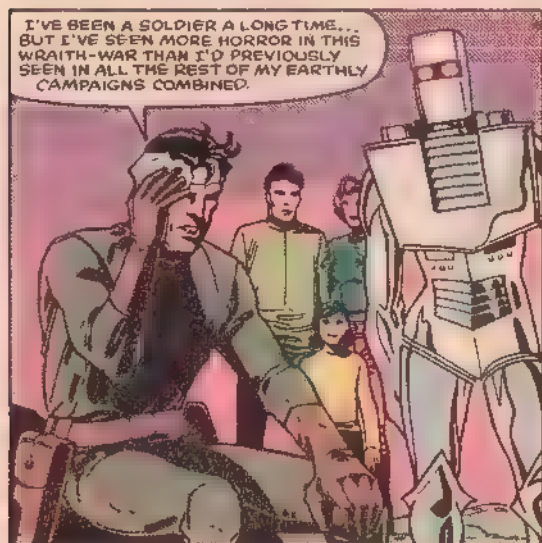
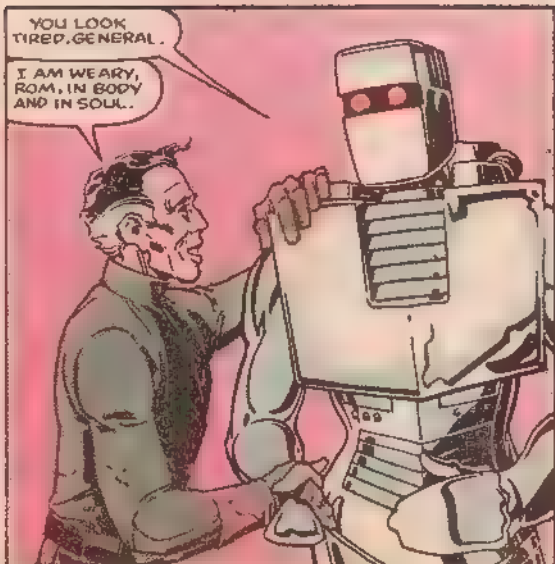
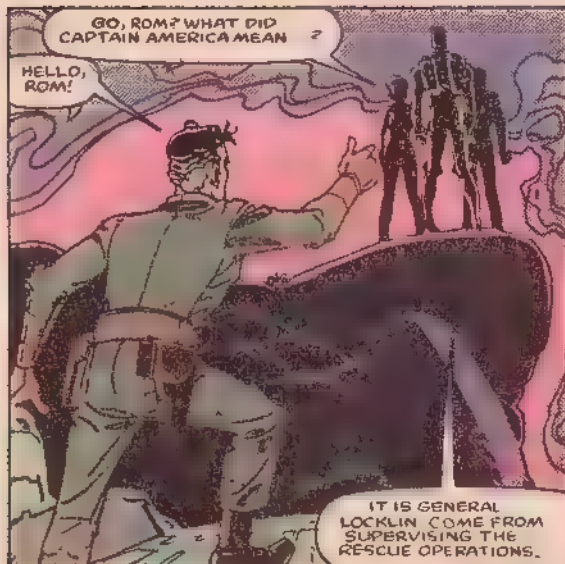
AND STILL THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE TOO BLIND TO SEE THE TRUTH...

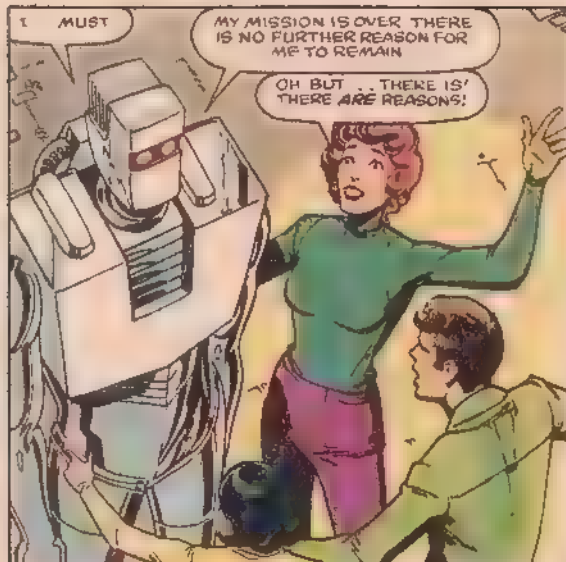
MUTANTS! SUPER-BEINGS! SPACEKNIGHTS! BAH! IN COMMAND OF FORGE'S WEAPON, I COULD HAVE DESTROYED THEM AND THE DIRE WRAITHS AT THE SAME TIME!

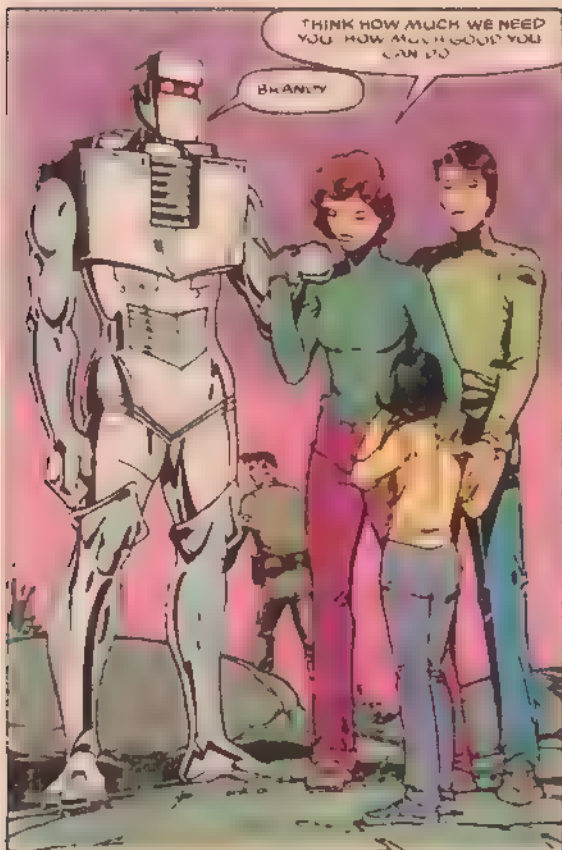
YES, THE EARTH WAS SPARED FOR PEOPLE LIKE AGENT HENRY PETER GYRICH, TOO!

TO AID IN THE LONG, HARD PROCESS OF RECONSTRUCTION THAT



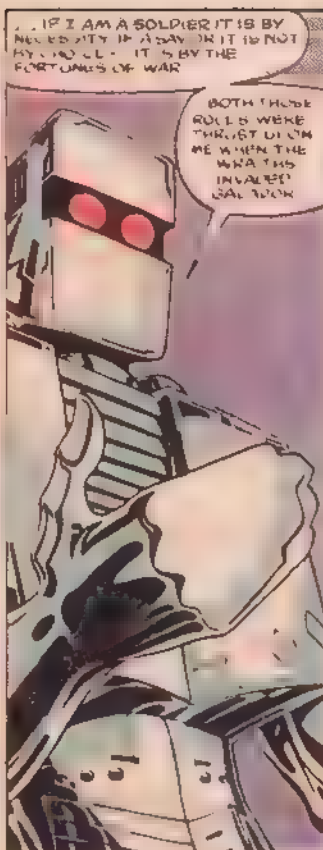






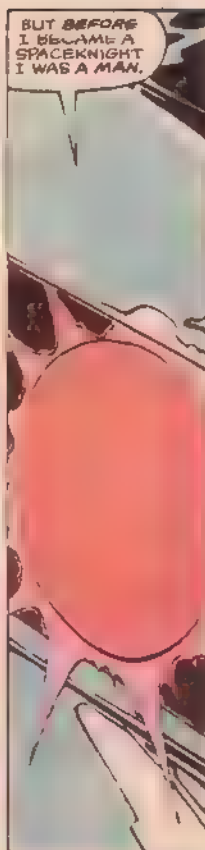
THINK HOW MUCH WE NEED YOU. HOW MUCH GOOD YOU CAN DO.

BRANLEY

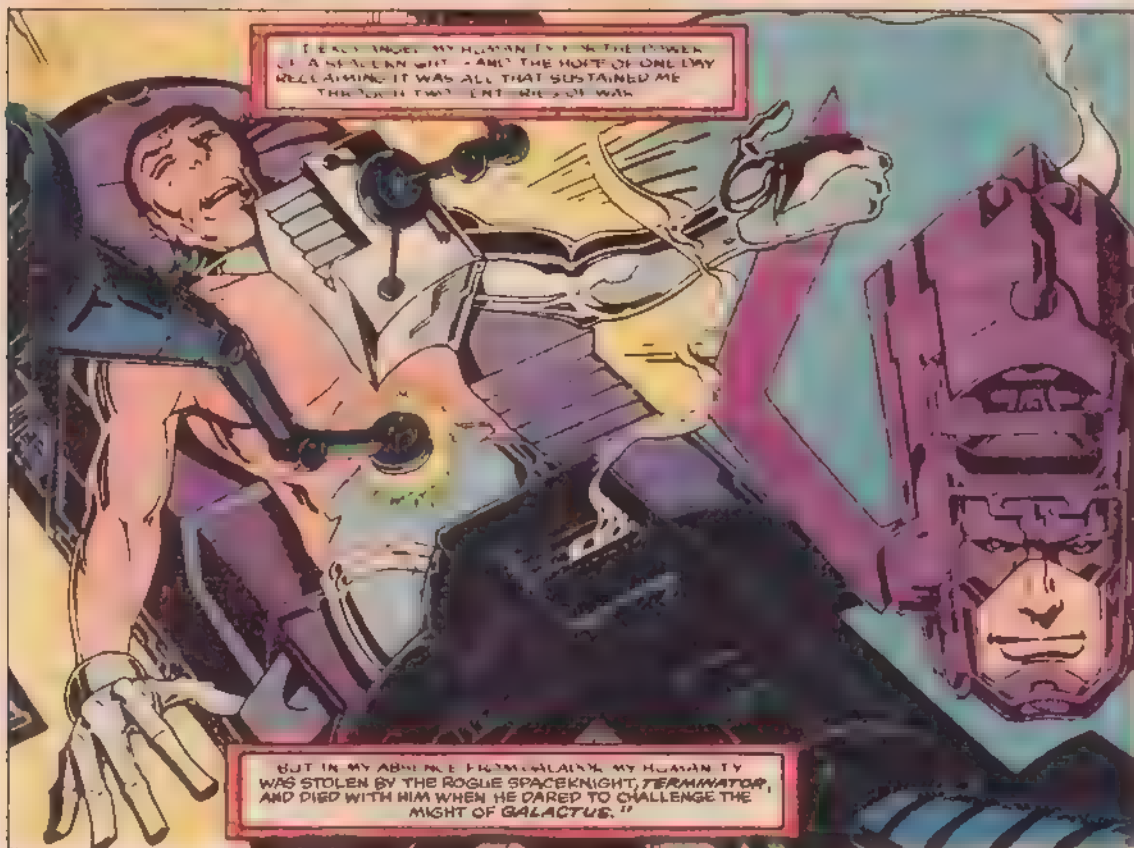


... IF I AM A SOLDIER IT IS BY NECESSITY. IF A DAY, IT IS NOT MY CHOICE - IT IS BY THE FORTUNES OF WAR.

BOTH THOSE ROLLS WERE THRUST UPON ME WHEN THE WAR THIS INVOLVED BEGAN.

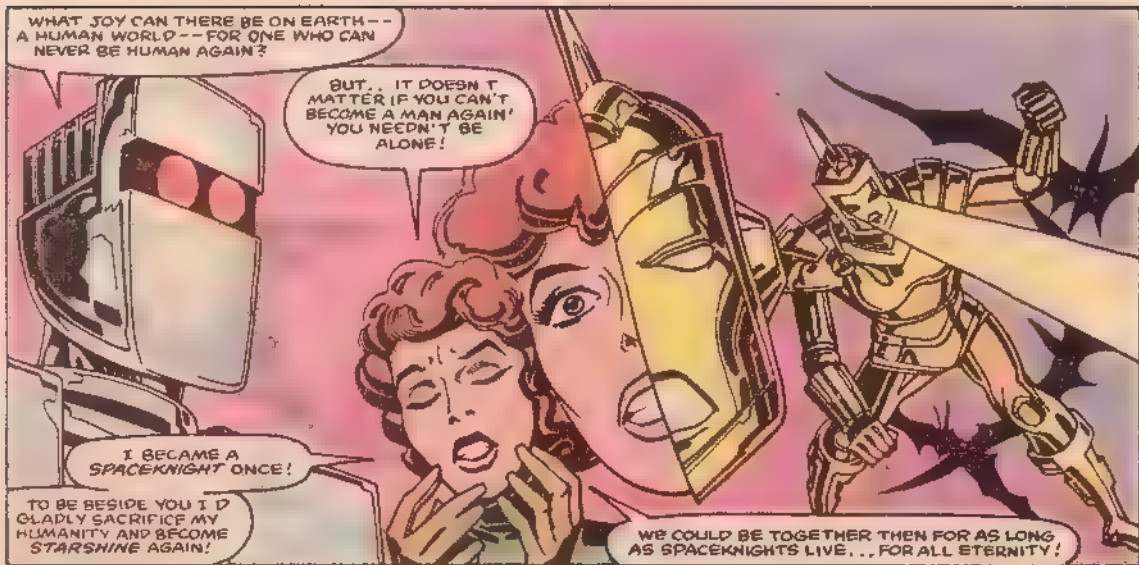


BUT BEFORE I BECAME A SPACEKNIGHT I WAS A MAN.



I EXERCISED MY HUMANITY IN THE POWER OF A SPACEMAN GUN - AND THE HOPE OF ONE DAY RECLAIMING IT WAS ALL THAT SUSTAINED ME THROUGH TWO ENTIRE YEARS OF WAR.

BUT IN MY ABSENCE FROM GALAXIA, MY HUMANITY WAS STOLEN BY THE ROGUE SPACEKNIGHT, TERMINATOR, AND DIED WITH HIM WHEN HE DARED TO CHALLENGE THE MIGHT OF GALACTUS."



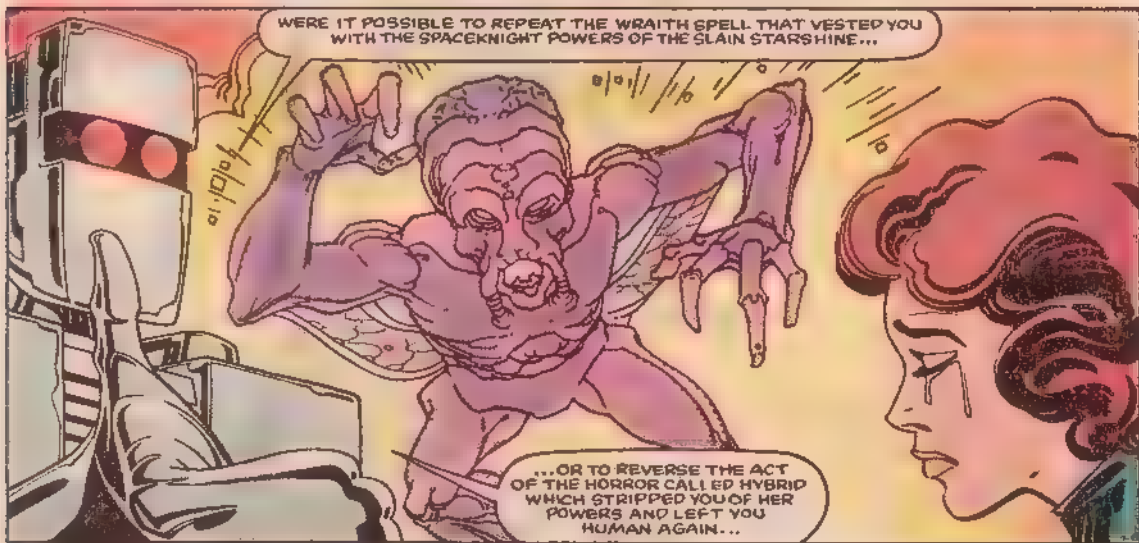
WHAT JOY CAN THERE BE ON EARTH--
A HUMAN WORLD---FOR ONE WHO CAN
NEVER BE HUMAN AGAIN?

BUT... IT DOESN'T
MATTER IF YOU CAN'T
BECOME A MAN AGAIN!
YOU NEEDN'T BE
ALONE!

I BECAME A
SPACEKNIGHT ONCE!

TO BE BESIDE YOU I'D
GLADLY SACRIFICE MY
HUMANITY AND BECOME
STARSHINE AGAIN!

WE COULD BE TOGETHER THEN FOR AS LONG
AS SPACEKNIGHTS LIVE... FOR ALL ETERNITY!



WERE IT POSSIBLE TO REPEAT THE WRAITH SPELL THAT VESTED YOU
WITH THE SPACEKNIGHT POWERS OF THE SLAIN STARSHINE...

...OR TO REVERSE THE ACT
OF THE HORROR CALLED HYBRID
WHICH STRIPPED YOU OF HER
POWERS AND LEFT YOU
HUMAN AGAIN...



I COULD CONDEMN NO ONE--
AND CERTAINLY NOT ONE WHOM I
LOVE WITH ALL MY CYBORG HEART
AS I LOVE YOU-- TO SHARE THE END
LESS ETERNITY OF LONELINESS AND
SOLITUDE THAT IS THE LOT OF ONE
DOOMED FOREVER TO EXIST WITHIN
THIS UNFEELING SPACEKNIGHT-STEEL.

SINCE NEITHER OF US CAN
CHANGE WHO OR WHAT WE
ARE, WE MUST GO OUR
SEPARATE WAYS.

STAY, BRANDY CLARK, WITH
RICK JONES AND CINDY ADAMS.
IN MANY WAYS, YOU THREE
HAVE BECOME A "FAMILY".

MY FAMILY IS DEAD!
THE WRAITHS KILLED THEM
WHEN THEY DESTROYED
MY HOMETOWN!

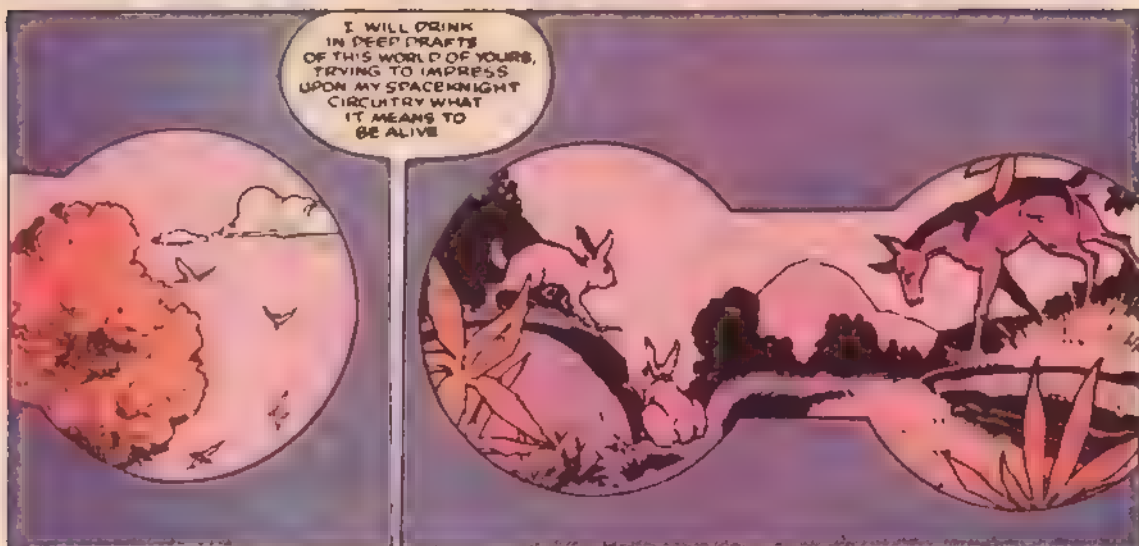
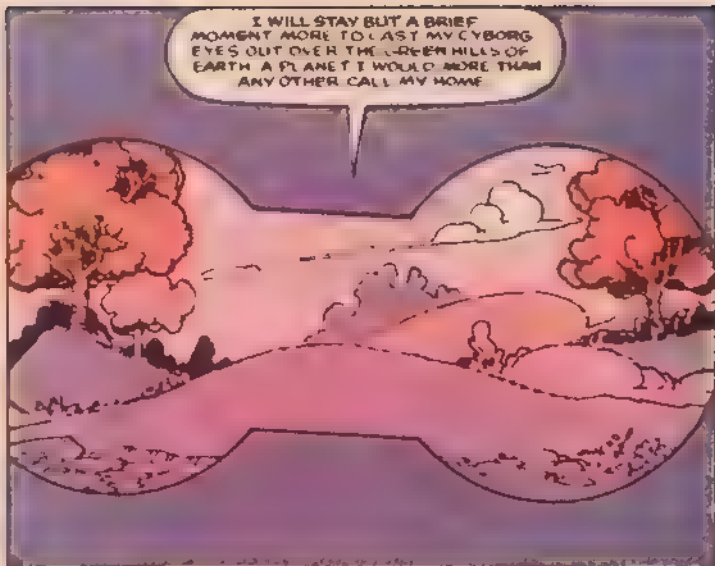
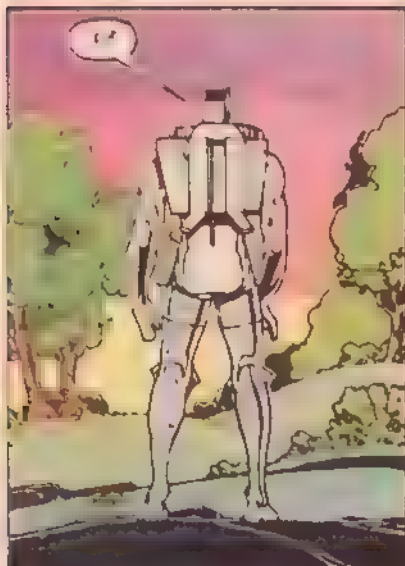
CINDY'S PARENTS
WERE SLAIN TOO
BRANDY

WE'VE ALL
LOST
SOMETHING
IN THE
WRAITH
WAR

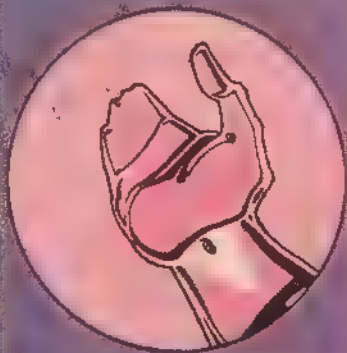
-- BUT WE'VE
ALSO FOUND
EACH OTHER!

YES, I - I GUESS
WE HAVE!

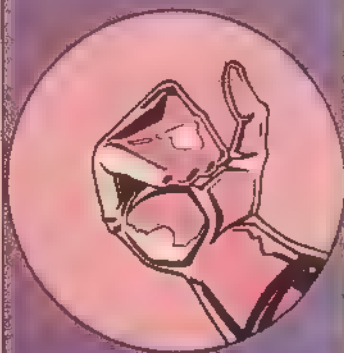
BUT... WHAT OF YOU, ROM?
WHERE WILL YOU GO? WHAT
WILL YOU DO?



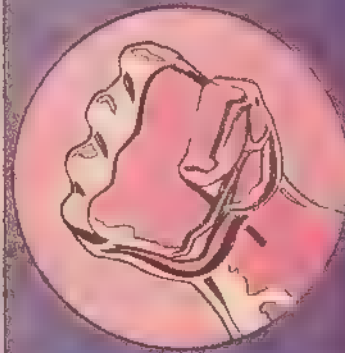
I HAVE NOT
FORGOTTEN WHAT
IT MEANS TO BE
ALIVE.



I HAVE NOT
FORGOTTEN WHAT
IT MEANS TO BE
HUMAN.



BUT WHEN I
LOOK UPON MY
OWN ARMORED
HANDS--



"--THOSE SELF-SAME MEMORIES
OF HAPPINESS SEEM NO MORE THAN
A SCORNFUL REMINDER OF ALL THAT
I HAVE SACRIFICED--"

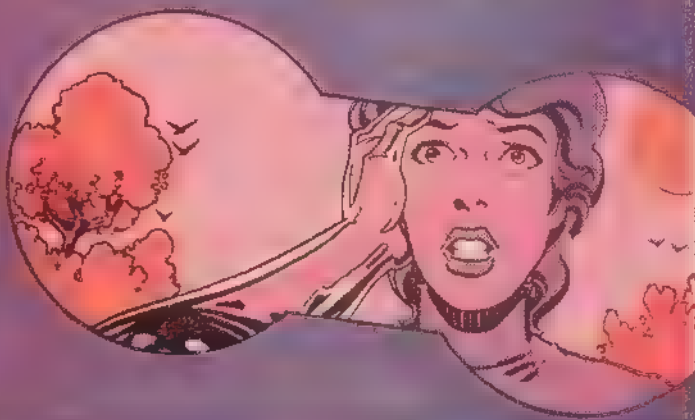


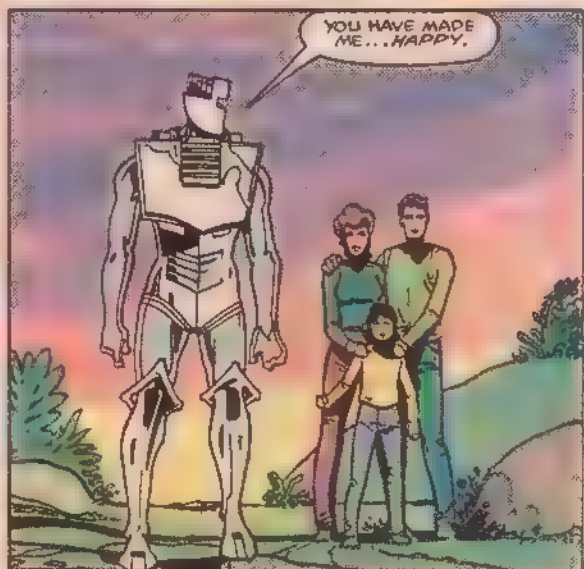
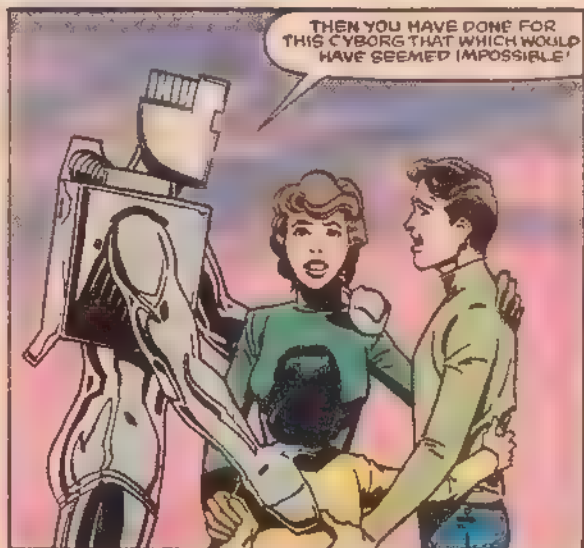
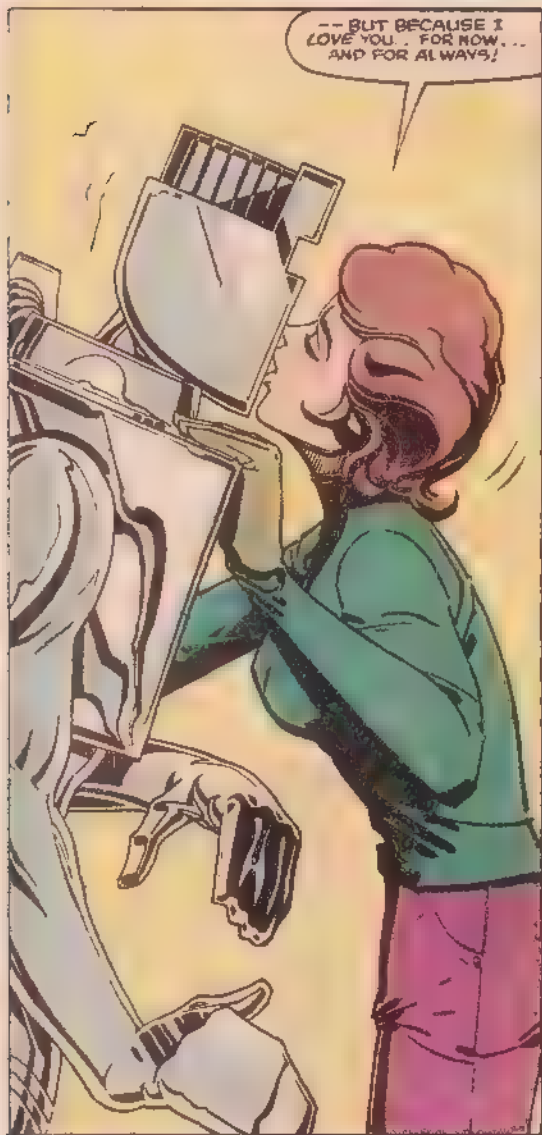
"-- OF THE HUMANITY
I HAVE LEFT BEHIND"

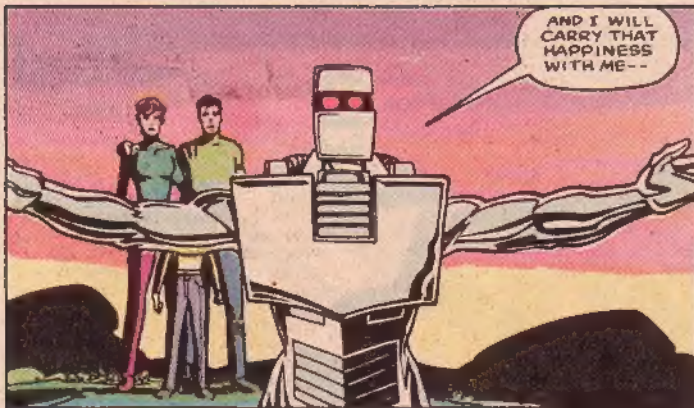
"I AM A MOCKERY
OF A MAN"



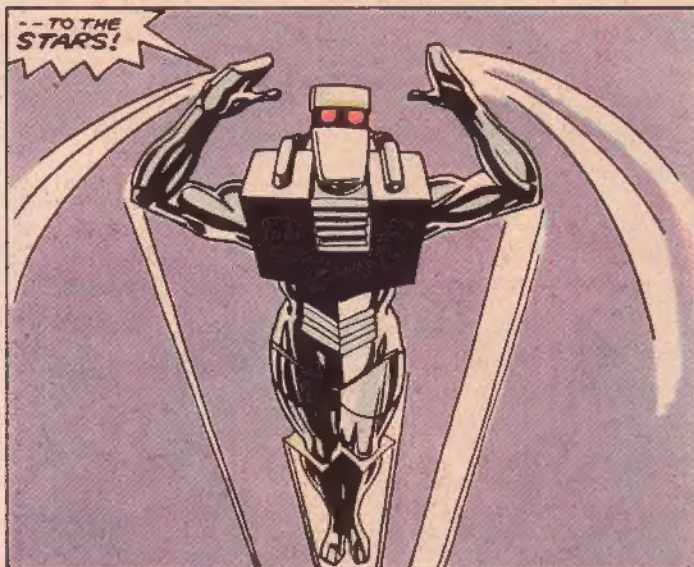
"-- TRAPPED IN THIS UNFEELING
BODY, MY TOUCH AS COLD AS DEATH."



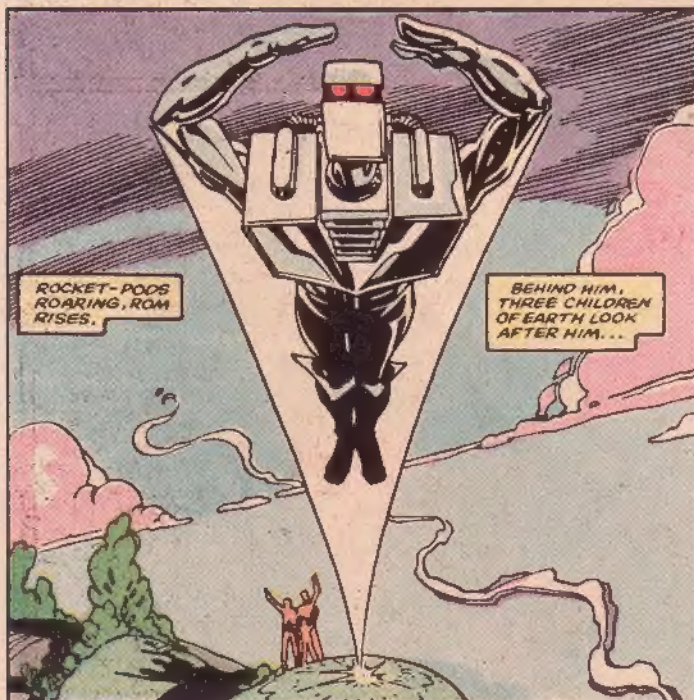




AND I WILL
CARRY THAT
HAPPINESS
WITH ME--



-- TO THE
STARS!



ROCKET-PODS
ROARING, ROM
RISES.

BEHIND HIM,
THREE CHILDREN
OF EARTH LOOK
AFTER HIM...



... UNTIL HIS ARMOR
FLASHES ONE FINAL
TIME IN THE SUNLIGHT
SHINING DOWN UPON
THE PLANET HE HELPED
SAVE...

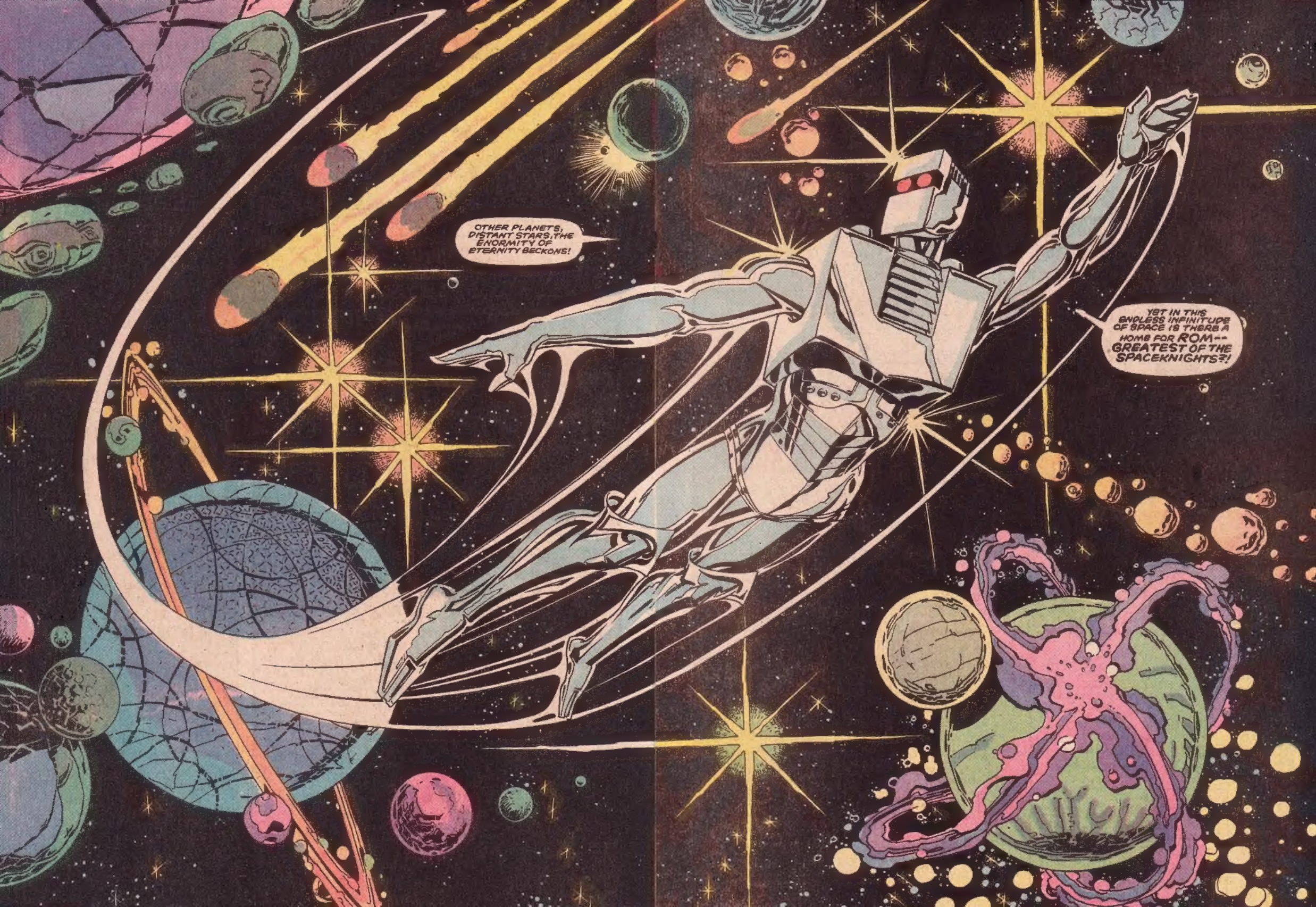
... AND THEN
HE IS GONE.

THE DAY AFTER!

THE WRATH-
WAR... IS OVER.

YES, ROM,
THANKS TO YOU
AND PRACTICALLY
EVERY SUPER-BEING
ON THE PLANET,
THE EARTH'S
BEEN SAVED...

BILL MANTLO • STORY
STEVE DITKO & • ART
STEVE LEIALOHA
JANICE CHIANG • LETTERS
PETRASCOSESE • COLORS
MIKE CARLIN • EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER • EDITOR
IN CHIEF

A full-page comic book illustration featuring a sleek, silver robot with a boxy head and a cape-like structure on its back. The robot is positioned diagonally across the frame, reaching out with its right arm towards the upper right corner. The background is a vibrant, colorful space scene filled with various celestial bodies: planets of different sizes and colors (blue, green, pink, orange), stars with multi-pointed flares, and streaks of light or comet tails. The overall style is reminiscent of classic comic book art, with bold lines and a rich color palette.

OTHER PLANETS,
DISTANT STARS, THE
ENORMITY OF
ETERNITY BECKONS!

YET IN THIS
ENDLESS INFINITY OF
SPACE IS THERE A
HOME FOR ROM--
GREATEST OF THE
SPACEKNIGHTS?!

Mmbacon and the HaCsA Proudly Present



Another Fine Baconsan!



ROM 66

1979 Series - Marvel, April 1985, pages, coverprice 0.65

Stories:

Rick Jones, Peter Gyrich app.; Rom leaves Earth for Galador

22 Scanned Images (2 joins), 1 .JPG .info, 1 Text .info.

HACSA IS: PHILBEARD, MIXX, TMD, DELL4C, SOLOMON GRUNDY, TILSAR, MAMBACON, ESCAPE, FETT, SEO, JME, JDSTUTTS, GOTHAM, GROVERMAN, SPIDEY 99, WHO42, ASHRAM, AND GUS.